
American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection



Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
November 4, 1928-December 19, 1928

Box Number:

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Sand pictures
on to Mrs.

Diggins please.

Tri Yang Road
Tringtoo, Shantung

Sunday Nov. 4, 1928

Dear ones!

Well, won't you be glad
when all this stained paper
is gone! I will! Am all
nicely settled now at eight
o'clock to visit awhile
with my dearest loved
ones across the sea - yet
ever so near to me!

It's been such a nice day!
Such a sort of Sabbath
sweet day! After breakfast
and cook's prayers I went
to Chinese service + saw a
number of friends I hadn't
seen for sometime - then
came home for dinner - had

understand & at least they
listened. They also liked
the guitar which I took
over to teach them a couple
of choruses. Then Julia &
Miss Ling such a nice teacher
there came on home with
me. I had a cloacate
cake last night so the
cook fixed the table so
pretty & we had cake & tea
— I was afraid to ask them
for supper for fear the meat
dumping wouldn't do
enough! I told the cook to note
hereafter on Saturdays he must
just prepare more food for
I never know when the
mood will strike me to
have guests but it seems to
come pretty sure on Sunday
so we might as well just

I a nice way & then such a
sweet experience of the
master's help! Julia asked
me to speak to her girls at
their ^(P.M. School) voluntary Sunday P.M.
service this afternoon, I felt
ab!! trembly in my boots —
but I couldn't refuse so
Saturday my teacher came &
I revised & recited over my
most familiar speech &
gave it this P.M. for them
It was such fun. I just
don't know anything I enjoy as
I do speaking. He had
helped me put in a few
nice Wen li expressions &
it was ^{Wen li is most learned form of Chinese} fun to see them
open their eyes when I
used them! They seemed to

⁴ prepare for it. I was such
fun with my beloved blue
pink lamp in middle making
a soft light to sit by with
these dear Chinese friends
& visit - why as I wrote it
was first I really realized
all were Chinese but me -
it never occurs to me at
all! They're so charming
& sweet! - after our tea
Miss Linn & I finished with
supper & then I settle
me down to visit with
family. Cook just quite
picturesquely described the
church service he went to
this P.M. He's very enthusiastic
over what he's heard -
he's not quite there yet I

5] think but he's gaining -
Last nite a friend came in
the kitchen & picked up
one of the books & was
so interested. He reads well
but had never heard before
so he was quite eager to
hear. I heard the cook
preaching to him for a
fair! I went down & helped
some & got his name for
a teacher to look up &
help. Please remember him
& family of (4) named Wang.
This week surely has flour
& been a full, interesting as
well as ^{an} eventful week! -
I told you we'd have mission
meeting - the last one in

71 from all over Slanting +
it was such fun to see
old friends, Mr. Wells of the
China Council who was so
nice to me in Korea was here
+ opened the meeting in a most
wonderful + inspiring way -
comparing our experiences there
2 years with Mary looking
into the empty tomb + then
of her seeing + knowing the
Master - to the various
wonderful reports of churches
going thru persecution in
Saut + the wonderful way
they have stood - even
30 or 40 giving lives rather
than deny the Lord. He told
of one church where at
beginning of ^{the clothes of} trouble, all
the worshippers when they

left history of its kind - but
I must begin with my
return from Mrs. Eames. Early
Monday morning to recount
the housekeeping experiences
of the week! I said we were
having a big wind + cold -
when I got home - it had
blown over some flower pots -
small matter - + there
a stovepipe which I'd sus-
picioned as having become a
rattled sine affair - blown
heavy black soot all over
the bath room - awful
eventually a man came but
not till next a.m. did
it finally get repaired.
Episcopal, Mission meeting
began Mon nite. + folks came

8 I went to church were ~~bracketed~~
as "betrayers of this country"
but they went - recently
had a service with 700
present + 30 numbers to be
baptized, while there are
still great problems facing
the church - he feels that
we're seeing the clouds
lifting + great great blessing
to come + that have already
come. It's striking that
~~almost~~ without exception every
report was of Christians
gaining a new idea of the
church - not as foreigners
church - but "our church"
as Chinese + the great deep-
ing experiences of Chinese
Christians all over. I'll

9] it all may be ^{Christianism} finer names
but truer deeper Christians.
He felt at some sort of a
wave of discouragement
over China but he feels
we're just stepping into a
wonderful new era of
rich blessing. (Later Thurs. nite.)
I just was so weary there I went
to bed. Mon a.m. felt weary so
after Mr. Li left I took my friend
bat water + went to bed + rested
the rest of the day. - I've been
going to bed right after supper
till tonight + studying all day -
no letters delayed. Am fine
now + feel good. Fortunately
for me committee had to work
Sun Q.M. - so I spurred the
cook on + helped dig out the

W] we managed quite decently. See my room is a bit full with 10 people just sitting not to speak of a big table in it besides. I had all the excitement of the guests not knowing just what might happen next! A friend of cook's used to tell - Chinese food isn't like ours - all prepared & served at one time. He prepared all the dishes & ingredients & had them all arranged beautifully on each plate then after we began he cooked them in succession & we had them piping hot! Well first met Mr. Wells, Mr. & Mrs. Eans Walters you'd know of - It went off fairly well but I was a bit uncertain & upset in spots tho I tried to keep "that calm exterior needed by the hosts" - but

10] deluge of soot! We got it out! Meetings were so interesting - long hours tho especially since I began the role of hostess. In three days I had 20 dinner guests & 14 folks here for tea! See the Chandler's are the only others here to do any thing to entertain all the visitors & many I have been indebted too & never had a chance to repay - like the folks in Chefoo who were so nice to me when we came thru, & some who had invited me last year & I'd no chance to pay back etc - Well, by borrowing chopsticks & rice bowls & tea cups & napkins & borrowing mis chair study for a dining room

11/ second night (wid dished
napkins thru a wash + used
my second best table cloth
it went just beautifully!
+ food was delicious, I can
cook! + lay served very well
2nd nite - so I enjoyed it
lots. Then Friday P.M., I wanted
some to meet some Chinese friends
so asked some to tea - to
have fried noodles (only he
boiled them first in chicken
broth + then put on a lot of
yummy things on top] This
was so funny. One husband came
visiting from Chefoo when I hadn't
expected him + I was in a
pickle - to get him one to
keep him company + not let
him know I'd come by mistake
- well, Mrs. Anspach was
coming so she went back + got

12/ got her busy, husband +
he came. That made 2 extra
+ I run on a narrow margin
even on "borroweds" - then
2 foreigners I'd not counted
carefully enough was the last
thing - we set an extra
table for the "marrieds" +
we "singles" sat at the big
one - we got that fixed
+ to the guests all presented
a brave front + off went
the tea - Great life!
Sun. Nov. 11
Now I haven't spoken at
all of the decisions of the
meeting preceding this +
this one - but here's another
week gone + your letter
still here. I'm trying desperat-
ely to get off Christmas cards

14) if you'll do it - it will mean more than I can tell. All these things - I haven't boxes for + can't get easily + then the time to mail. Thank you heaps, I do hope the books etc have come by now - I'm severely surprised at the delay.

Your Oct 10-17 letters this a.m. but I'll answer them later. The cook came up with hands full + looked so happy!! He said from America! He is always interested to know whether your letters are in it! He asks from "Loa tai tai" "The honorable old Lady" + when I said 2 he seemed very happy! Guess its because I'm

13) + your boxes - I must this week as I go next week to the country - so I've been writing on them today, birds two Chinese services supper at Julia's - not even a nap today. Sat a.m. in rush of many things piled up I got off to Mrs. Eames to Moseley's birthday party for dinner + went over some things she wants to leave for me - I can't begin to tell all I want to in this letter tonight as its 10 now - but want to put in a bit -

I'm mailing a box to you mother please open it + send the little stone flowers for coat collars to the tagged ones. I hate to get up into this but

I always so glad to get them + he's really awfully nice! If I'm especially happy over something he generally is too. He has asked me to write several times if American letters. He always asks when you're coming + by fits + starts he practices English words in preparation for the honorable old lady's arrival! He dreamed one nite you came + you could talk Chinese!!!

- now

I'll still be an
 American since Hoover is
 elected! I must go to
 bed 12' last nite 10:30 now + I've
 such busy days ahead -
 Lots + lots of love to my
 precious ones! Goodnite -
 (not read) Irene

1 Lri Yang Road
Sunday note
November 18, 1928

Dear One:
Want to begin your letter + forget
get it off but I've signs of being
sleepy fast coming so I may have to
stop right in middle!

These days have been so full. Study-
ing, Christmas shopping, writing
cards - got 90 off last week in
about 3 days - besides getting country
preparations for a 2 months trip +
then Friday a.m. came a note from
committee asking me to take the
Sunday Foreign service, + Mr. + Mrs.
Cane left + I had them here to
supper etc etc!!! Life is it slow
I tell you, I tell you the cook
has been a peach these days he has
just run his legs off nearly + he's
so cheerful thru it all. I surely
are thankful for his help.

The Master surely was precious to
help me. It wasn't easy to preach
because - I'm the first woman to
do it here - for years the committee
hasn't approved + all last year
men were plentiful! but this
year - committee decided to ask

women - at least they asked me. I
said it was like an icy plunge
to be first but really it wasn't
bad. One lady when asked about
it said "It isn't done in our tanks"
"I said we can't go to church with head uncovered" ^{but their}
She was there tho - don't know what ^{she} ^{thought}
she thought. I wore a hat to be the
least objectionable possible tho ^{considering}
I'd much prefer not - you know me.
The master did help + I believe
trust he used the message. I was
helped I know.

The Christmas box is off! It has
all the things for the rest - beside
the beads etc - I addressed it
to Lula because someone said
if one person received too many
boxes the duty was worse. I didn't
declare this in detail but Loyalty
won't open packages because for
first time I've wrapped them nicely.
I waited + waited for the twins
to get little wooden rickshaws
but they were too slow. so had
to substitute the hats. When they
are older tho they'd like them
better as skull caps. I was sorry!
I haven't enclosed something for

3] all of Glenn's - just baby because I
found these cute shoes - + Aunt
called only a flower - I just couldn't
get so much - + besides it is hard
for them - so do as you like if
you rather give those ^{as} odd gifts later
all right. I have tried to remember
all with cards, will send you one
with Chinese + English too!

Your letter of 28 not answered!
Glad you saw Uncle Rob. My! my he
may go. I expect his time is about
here - his old emf! I'm surprised Aunt
Clara doesn't want to go back to California.
That nice she can be happy there tho.
So glad Bessie L. has the little baby.
Won't Uncle Rob + Aunt Allie love it?

How I enjoyed the Enterprise news - It
would seem strange for you to go back to
so many changes! Am glad too to hear about
Leo's - You know I changed Robert's gift
after your letter came. I find myself in that
awful state of not letting (in my mind)
these kiddies grow up - I keep thinking of
them as the same as when I saw them. I
fear George's gift is too young maybe - It's
terrible to be this way! When you wrote of
his being in H.S. + being teased about
a girl I was just startled! + immediately
thought of a pompadour + all the

4) agonies of growing them - rather of
keeping them flat - so got the
hot! I just have ridden in my mind
several times with you + Leo up
that valley - remember our first trip
in + the many punctures! Its so
good to hear of Leo's success + all.
He's so fine it wont spoil him!
Isn't he the sport having a car
furnished? Did they sell the Stude-
baker? I have none of their own?

Portia is doing fine! Yes, I was interested
to hear from her! Couldn't Mr. + Mrs. Sted
after all these years of up + downs
not keep on a little longer?

Oh no, Lawrence Allen ^{was} wont my
pupil. He graduated in Sarah's class
the year before I taught in H. S. so
he really doesn't know me as well as
I know of him thru Sarah. It is hard
to know isn't it why Mrs. McCallip's
daughter was taken. I think of a
statement I read "we're put on the
earth not so much for certain amount
of service as for ^{a certain} growth in spiritual
attainment" - that may account for
it - Honey How can Mrs. White be
so tight with her money. She used to
think she wouldn't give it to her-
but me at my! How can she have

5] Christ's love in her heart + we so?
I'm ^{not} judging her - but seems strange.
She always ^{was} fond of Emmett - remember
she told us how he had told her
when he grew up he wanted his wife
to have a flowered kerchief;

Well, we're proud of America! I tell
you I am. My Chinese teacher said
he feels the world + China for a
little hope - since Hoover is
elected. Thursday we got sure news
here. I don't understand when there
was such a landslide why the papers
were so uncertain till the last about
it!

She and is out of the log - I must
get to bed. The morning is a
busy day - with dearest loved
ones.

Mr. + Mrs. Conner closed their house up
at the Hub early Friday & came in to
the Castle Inn here till Sunday. The
kiddies took cold but were better
when they left. They were here for supper
on Saturday night. I didn't ask other
guests - tho had expected to but as
plans changed I was glad. I felt a
bit selfish just wanted a new little
visit by myself with them. Then

6. Sunday a.m. went down to the boat to see them off. They looked so nice. Surely are cute kiddies. I think Mrs. Eames surely hated to leave Fergal (the anal) who's been with them 9 years. Billie + Johnnie both have to be watched every minute!! It will keep them busy - I really can't think you'll be able to go to Cal. to meet them. Mrs. Eames last word was, "I'll bring your mother back with me" -

Monday ^{nite} 10 o'clock, all packed and I guess ready - Luggage enough for a caravan - The teacher's big bag of rice, we have four baskets 3 small + 1 large of things, 1 suit case of clothes, 1 suitcase of books, quite a 3 bed rolls!! Well for two months it isn't so bad! I don't know about bed + etc so I'd put in a little extra all the time. I'll be wearing Chinese clothes + I'm glad glad too to get away from the many foreign demands here - -

Am enclosing the recent letter from Margaret re her trip in to her Station Shanghai. You'll enjoy

7] it I know. I think its great.
Margaret Winsett is her name.
Oh! my warm Chinese shoes are
warm! Mrs. Chandler wanted my
shoes to have copied so I slipped
on these & oh my feet are itchy
with wool hose & these stockings.
Have no fire either in my room -
am getting tough for the cold
hours in country!

I figured up our meals since
Miss Liu has been eating with me
& besides the guests meals which
as yet I kept separate, our meals
come to about 224. 11¢ gold.
It surely is cheaper to have Chinese food
If I ever get caught up - I will this
month I hope to be able to save a
little bit this year - I surely did
not last year on 2.50 a day!

Well, ~~dearest~~ ~~one~~ ~~must~~ get
myself to bed. I was at Julia's
for supper tonight. It was so sweet
of her to ~~ask~~ ~~us~~ ~~to~~ ~~use~~ ~~her~~ ~~house~~ ~~as~~ ~~usual~~
nice food! In center of the table
on a ~~pie~~ ~~tin~~ beautiful white
brass charcoal stove & dish on
the angel cake pan principle char-
coal in the center & in the surround

5) pan - mint hot soup with
vegetables, meal, fish balls & such
good things are just arranged
beautifully!! It is so nice for cold
weather - keeps soup hot & nice.
Then we had four plates of meat
vegetables - oh our foreign vegetables
haven't a bit of flavor in comparison!

I think I'll be able to write
then weeks as there is good postal
service to Pui Sing. Miss Liu
will forward letters.

My precious ones I love you
so. - You're all so dear &
sweet!

I have my first ride in a chair
carried on men's shoulders tomorrow
Miss Strunk ^{Luftan} has one & I'll go to
her place in Suima & in the chair
20 li - 6 miles - I think I'll go only
part way because I'd rather walk
I don't like idea of riding on their
shoulders!

Bye dearest ones, I'm quite
excited at the prospect of my
two months in the country with
these nice folks -

Love & nite nite
Love -

Pai Ling, Shanghai
Dec. 19, 1928

Dear Ones:

Some weeks have passed since I wrote
you I think - my! these days are surely
very very busy. I have two letters from you
memos dear to answer. One came on our
first mail after a ten days interval of
no sight of the postman even - he
didn't come because of some upset
in Suimo City, where he starts. I surely
was glad to hear from you - &
want to get an answer started anyway
I feel very honored to have Mr. Sutcliffe
remember me. I met him in Woodburn just
before I left. I knew you'd be delighted
over Hoover's election! We surely were
here too - of course we had very little
excitement - none but surely were
glad. My teacher, maybe I wrote this, says
maybe this hope for rest of world, since
America has thus stood for the right.

Am. glad you got the books etc. & that
you got to meet Miss Benton. The duty
was high! I wonder if I had mailed it
whether duty ^{would} had been so high. But
can't tell tho! Yes that was right for
you to ask Rachel & De Atta to pay their
share duty. I'm sure they're willing.

I never have written Bessie yet about her mother's present but you probably have told her; If she wants to send it - \$2.50 gold will cover it all right - if not no matter. I'm happy that you like them - & I hope they'll bring you joy, as much as I had in sending them. I'll see about sending Bessie later a bit of real jade. This Japanese jade on her - & they just imitate everything this is good glass but not Chinese jade. Yours

is mother good jade. I suppose Ray & Eula use the electric washer & get up & get the work out in the same old spy fashion! It's so nice that you can be with them. I've thought these months this fall, if you were here you'd be lonely! See, one month away home 2 weeks - now this time away two months - you'd be pretty lonely I fear - I couldn't bring you with me to the country you'd not be comfy. tho I have a little stove now & room is quite comfy & not having to carry water myself & coal makes it much easier - but this cold weather you'd find it hard here - Well, well just see.

I had a wild dashing trip in to Irington last weekend - Started from here at 7 on Friday a.m. walked 20 li (7 miles) in a fine rain the latter part but had my fur lined gormut on so wasn't wet -

That day also initiated my new ^{new} silk padded
chinese trousers, it was so funny. They
were too long came below dress so I
swived in a hem - then as I walked along
I saw them, a bit more + more visible!! See
they are big around + lay over, + are held up
with a kind of sash tied tightly around
the waist - [mine happens to be an old
necktie of Mr. James] At intervals I
pushing hand in the opening at side of
garment to give them an upward lift!!
to keep respectable - but as we neared
Sino. City - Miss Wang + I stopped + let
the others go first to fix them. By sort of
cooperative effort we got them up. I
pulled + she pulled on my fur
garment downwards, + then gave the
trousers an extra tight "suck" so I
got into Suintoo without my
new trousers showing!! It was so
funny!! I just have to swallow my
pride + wear them tho' I usually enter
the "fat" class when I put them on!
But I just succumb & be comfortable!!
They're the warmest things conceivably
just toasty - black cloth outside
inside flannel padded with raw
silk which is light + soft!

We had one very cold snap +
Miss W. + C. said I did not have

4. I much needed warm clothes - so
on this trip in I filled in the lack-
ing articles 1. Shoes - at the lovely
boats. You see we're only mud floors
not the warmest in the world. I
froze my feet the first few days
& strange to say didn't know when
I did it - but I knew it afterward
of the awful chilblains - well I've
soaked them in alum water &
almost "boiled" them - so I think
they're cured - at least they do not
itch as they did. But I have to
be careful not to freeze them again.
All said I should get felt shoes
well if I didn't I have fun getting
them. In first place my asking
for such shoes caused surprise in
Sungtoo stores but after several
fruitless searches I found some
a few inches too large! Well - at last
we got the idea of paddling &
so I'm fixed!! The Southern name
is "Soo Do Lo" Old man's happiness &
I can well believe it - but they
are my happiness I assure you
fully 15" long I know - felt sole 1 1/2" thick
they are about 1/2" thick over sides &